
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Education

\$9.8-MILLION SEISMIC UPGRADE FOR W.J. MOUAT SECONDARY

ABBOTSFORD – The Province has approved \$9.8 million in seismic upgrades to make W.J. Mouat secondary school safer for students and staff, Abbotsford-Mount Lehman MLA Mike de Jong announced today.

“There are more students enrolled at W.J. Mouat than any other secondary school in the district,” said de Jong. “These improvements will ensure a safe environment for students and staff to achieve their best.”

The seismic improvements include strengthening the existing metal roof deck, reinforcing the existing concrete walls, adding steel columns and bracing, and improving connections between the roof, wall and foundation. Some footings and foundations will also be upgraded. This work is scheduled to occur over a 15-month period from June 2007 to September 2008.

“These upgrades are part of the Province’s \$1.5-billion investment to ensure that B.C. students and staff are learning and teaching in safe, seismically sound schools,” said Education Minister Shirley Bond. “This is an unprecedented commitment that highlights the importance this government places on education, health and safety.”

“We are happy to hear the Province has signed an agreement and this project is moving forward,” said school board chair Joanne Field. “The seismic upgrade at W.J. Mouat will help ensure that students and staff can learn and teach in a safe educational facility.”

Since 2001, the Province has invested over \$75 million in the Abbotsford school district to complete 15 capital projects, including 10 additions, three new schools, one replacement school, and one renovation.

During the same period, the Province has spent over \$1 billion to complete 26 new schools, 32 replacements, 140 additions and 22 renovations projects across British Columbia. By the end of 2008-09, the Province will have invested more than \$2.8 billion in school capital and maintenance projects.

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Lara Perzoff
Public Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Education
250 356-5963
250 920-9040 (cell)Lara Perzoff
Public Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Education
250 356-5963
250 920-9040 (cell)Lara Perzoff
Public Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Education
250 356-5963
250 920-9040 (cell)Lara Perzoff
Public Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Education
250 356-5963
250 920-9040 (cell)

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